

TO: Commissioner Jerry Libbin, Chair

Members of the Sustainability Committee

Eric Hecht – Appointed by Commissioner Jerry Libbin
Lanette Sobel – Appointed by Commissioner Jorge Exposito
Debra Leibowitz – Appointed by Commissioner Deede Weithorn
Liliam Furst – Appointed by Commissioner Jonah Wolfson
Luiz Rodrigues – Appointed by Commissioner Ed Tobin
Gabriole Van Bryce – Appointed by Commissioner Michael Gongora
Mitch Novick – Appointed by Mayor Matti Herrera Bower

DATE: December 18, 2012

SUBJECT: MINUTES OF THE SUSTAINABILITY COMMITTEE MEETING OF NOVEMBER 20, 2012.

The attendees were as follows: Committee members: Lanette Sobel, Debra Leibowitz, Liliam Furst, Luiz Rodrigues, Gabriole Van Bryce, and Mitch Novick.

Absentees: Eric Hecht.

City Staff: Fred Beckmann, Public Works Director; Richard Saltrick, City Engineer; Betsy Wheaton, Environmental Resources Manager; Margarita Wells, Environmental Specialist; and, Mark Williams, Urban Forester.

Guests: Gary Hunt, Greenspace/Tree Advocacy Group (GTAG).

1. Minutes Review

a. Motion to approve minutes made by Mr. Novick, seconded by Ms. Van Bryce. Minutes approved unanimously.

2. Sustainability Committee Work Plan

- a. Water Quality and Conservation Green Alleys and Parking Lots, Richard Saltrick.
 - i. Mr. Saltrick provided a summary of the City's initiatives to improve water quality and to reduce energy and water consumption Citywide, including the use of Xeriscaping, Light-Emitting Diode (LED) lighting, rainwater harvesting, swales, and pervious concrete. Mr. Saltrick indicated that the City is also looking to implement these initiatives as part of a green alley pilot program. Commissioner Libbin requested that the Committee assist with developing incentives for property owners adjacent to existing City alleys to facilitate the creation of green alleys. Furthermore, he suggested that the Committee participate in an inventory of existing alleys that are possible candidates for the pilot program.

ACTION: Staff to organize field trip for the Committee to create an inventory of City alleys during the December meeting starting with a short training on green alleys by Mr. Saltrick.

b. Water Quality and Conservation – Artificial Turf Referral from the Land Use and Development Committee on November 5.

i. Commissioner Libbin briefed the Committee on the City's discussion regarding the potential use of artificial turf in the City's major athletic fields. The Committee indicated that they want additional information regarding artificial turf before further discussing the subject.

ACTION: Ms. Leibowitz to research the topic and report her findings at the December meeting. Staff to provide Ms. Leibowitz with the links to research identified thus far.

- c. Natural Resources and Ecosystem Management Tree Ordinance Resolution Request, Mark Williams and Gary Hunt.
 - i. Mr. Williams provided a history on the development of the City's Tree Ordinance, which is pending approval from Miami-Dade County. Mr. Hunt, on behalf of GTAG, requested that the Committee support the adoption of the City's Tree Ordinance and the future development of a landscaping ordinance. Commissioner Libbin indicated that the Committee cannot act until they have reviewed the Tree Ordinance language.

ACTION: Mr. Williams to provide the draft Tree Ordinance for the Committee's review following Miami-Dade County approval.

- d. Solid Waste Management Recycling Program Update, Betsy Wheaton.
 - Ms. Wheaton updated the Committee regarding the progress of the City's recycling campaign and provided samples of the reusable bags provided by Coca-Cola and the outreach materials developed by City staff.
- e. Solid Waste Management Special Event Recycling Update, Betsy Wheaton.
 - i. Commissioner Libbin requested that the draft special event recycling requirements be presented to the Committee in December for discussion. ACTION: Staff to develop and present a draft of the proposed special event recycling requirements at the December meeting.
- f. Community Outreach and Participation Environmental Grants, Betsy Wheaton.
 - i. Ms. Wheaton informed the Committee that ECOMB was selected as this year's recipient of the waste haulers' annual environmental contribution of \$25,000. In addition, Commissioner Libbin stated that two \$5,000 environmental grants, one for a marine-related or children-related philanthropic organization and one for environmental programs, are available for award at the recommendation of the Committee. Ms. Van Bryce and Ms. Leibowitz indicated that the previous procedure for awarding these grants was to advertise the availability of the funds and to request that all interested organizations submit an application and present to the Committee. The Committee then used a standard evaluation form to rank the applicants and make their recommendation. Ms. Wheaton

mentioned that, in the past, the second grant was awarded to ECOMB. Ms. Leibowitz stated that it is inappropriate for the funds to be directly steered to a Committee member's organization. Mr. Rodrigues stated that it is his understanding this year's funds have already been requested by the interim City Manager for appropriation to ECOMB. Commissioner Libbin indicated that he would confirm with the interim City Manager.

ACTION: Staff to send previously used evaluation form to the Committee for review and comment. Staff to modify grant requirements to indicate that the selected organizations will need to produce measurable results and report the outcome of the project to the Committee at the conclusion of the grant. Staff to advertise the availability of the environmental grants following additional direction regarding the status of the environmental programs grant.

3. New Business

- a. 2013 Meeting Dates, Betsy Wheaton.
 - i. This discussion item was deferred to the December meeting.
- b. 2012 Bi-Annual Report Discussion, Betsy Wheaton.
 - i. This discussion item was deferred to the December meeting.
- c. Authentic and Sustainable Florida Conference, Commissioner Libbin.
 - i. Commissioner Libbin, Ms. Wheaton, Mr. Rodrigues, and Ms. Van Bryce spoke briefly regarding their experience at the 2012 Authentic and Sustainable Florida Conference. Commissioner Libbin indicated that the conference will take place in Miami Beach next year and that the Committee should provide input during the planning stages starting with a discussion at the December meeting.

ACTION: Staff to add the discussion item to the December meeting agenda.

Meeting adjourned at 6:06 PM.

The proceedings of this meeting have been recorded. Please contact Patricia Bocio at 305.673.7080 or phocio@miamibeachfl.gov for more information.

FHB/JJF/RWS/ESW/MKW

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